



TO: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer *Robin Desmond*

DATE: October 29, 2021, 2021

The Special Education Department continues to track compliance in multiple areas to ensure all services are delivered to students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The Special Education staff have made significant progress in all areas of compliance. Attached is an overview of the current data for initial meetings, annual reviews and re-evaluation meetings.

Special Education Report

Current Special Education Enrollment 2,675 Students as of 10/27/21

Current Initial Meetings	Compliance Regulations under Massachusetts CMR 28.05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed consent must be received for process to begin Testing is being completed within 30 school days of received consent Meetings are scheduled/held and an eligibility determination is made within 45 school days of received consent 		
This data reflects 96 meetings in process because signed consent has been received.			
	In Compliance	In Process	# In Process Pending Translation
Elementary	56	15	4
Middle	14	5	4
High Schools	5	1	3
Totals	75	21	11

Current Annual Review Meetings that are in process	Compliance Regulations under Massachusetts CMR 28.04 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Review Meeting is held each school year prior to the month/date of initial eligibility 		
	In Compliance	In Process	# In Process Pending Translation
Elementary	78	49	18
Middle	56	28	21
High Schools	68	29	11
Totals	202	106	50

Current Reevaluations that are in process or due	Compliance Regulations under Massachusetts CMR 28.05 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed consent must be received for process to begin Testing is being completed within 30 school days of received consent Meetings are scheduled/held and an eligibility determination is made within 45 school days of received consent 			
	Current Re-evaluations in progress	Re-evaluations that are now scheduled to be completed	Consent has not been received to complete the Re-evaluations	# of In Process Pending Translation
Elementary	90	51	28	14
Middle	85	52	44	13
High Schools	71	42	29	17
Totals	246	145	101	44
Non-enrolled (Early Childhood) 101 cases	Initial signed consent received and meeting is scheduled	Initial signed consent received and meeting is NOT scheduled	Initial signed consent received; evaluation is pending translation services	
	37	17	47	

Factors impacting Meeting Compliance

- COVID 19 Pandemic
 - March 2020 - June 2020 evaluations were not in process (DESE required Distance Learning Plans were completed during this time).
 - 2020 - 2021 school year School Psychologists completed the majority of academic testing in addition to their typical testing procedures.
- 2020-2021 School Year evaluation priority was Initial Evaluations to ensure all students in need of services were addressed with an IEP.
- 152 meetings currently impacted by translation services (see above break down)
- An evaluation cannot be completed until consent is signed and returned by parent/guardian
 - Consents are sent home 90 days prior to the re-evaluation date
 - Resent every 30 days until a signed consent is received

New Staffing:

- 3 new Evaluation Team Chairperson (Dates of Hire 9/9/21, 9/9/21, 7/15/21)
- 2 new School Psychologist (Dates of Hire 8/25/21, 9/2/21)
- 1 Speech Pathologist position is currently open
- 1 Special Education clerk position is currently open

Action Steps for Compliance

- Assistant Director of Special Education assigned to building based support 2 days a week
- An additional ETC position added for the 2021-2022 School Year
- Veteran ETC and School Psychologist staff mentoring new hires
- Department compliance data reviewed weekly
- All outstanding consents for evaluation / re-evaluation have been sent out again as of 10/25/21
- Special Education Parent Advocate will continue to reach out to these families